

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 8105

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AF
SUBJECT: US-AFGHAN RELATIONS

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT DAOUD'S BROTHER, NAIM, TOLD ME OF GOA'S STRONG DESIRE FOR CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE US BUT ALSO OF GOA'S PERLEXITY CONCERNING "EVIDENCE" IT HAS THAT US WAS INVOLVED IN ABORTED MAIWANDWAL COUNTER-COUP. I ASSURED NAIM OF US DESIRE FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH DAOUD AND THAT USG WAS NOT IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN COUNTER-COUP. IT WAS LEFT THAT DEPUTY FONMIN AND I WOULD REVIEW THE "EVIDENCE."

1. I PAID MY INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT DAOUD'S BROTHER NAIM ON NOVEMBER 26. NAIM WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO EXPRESS THE DESIRE OF THE DAOUD REGIME FOR CLOSE, FRANK AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT SUCH RELATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR AFGHANISTAN FOR BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICY REASONS.

2. NAIM THEN SAID THAT THE GOA AND HE PERSONALLY ARE GREATLY CONCERNED AND PERPLEXED BY THE "EVIDENCE" OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE ABORTED MAIWANDWAL COUNTER-COUP. HE ASKED DEPUTY FONMIN ABDULLAH, WHO WAS PRESENT FOR THE CONVERSATION, TO PROVIDE ME WITH THIS "EVIDENCE." LATER IN THE CONVERSATION, NAIM AND ABDULLAH REFERRED TO BOTH DOCUMENTARY AND TAPED "EVIDENCE" INVOLVING MAIWANDWAL'S STATEMENTS TO HIS CO-CONSPIRATORS, ASSURING THEM OF AMERICAN FINANCIAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT. WITH SOME RELISH ABDULLAH SAID THAT THE PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR HAD TOLD HIM THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE US HAD SUPPORTED MAIWANDWAL'S EFFORTS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO NAIM I REPEATED WHAT I HAD SAID NOVEMBER 21 TO DAOUD CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT'S RESPECT FOR DAOUD,

AMERICAN ADMIRATION FOR AFGHANISTAN'S SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE CONTINUITY OF AMERICAN POLICY IN TERMS OF SUPPORT BOTH FOR AFGHANISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE AND FOR AFGHANISTAN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. I THEN CATEGORICALLY DENIED THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE USG OR ANY RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN OFFICIAL IN ANY EFFORT TO OVERTHROW THE DAOUD REGIME. I SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO AMERICAN POLICY. I SAID I LOOKED FORWARD TO EXAMINING THE EVIDENCE AND DOING MY UTMOST AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE TO DISPEL ANY SUSPICION ON THE PART OF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT OUR INTENTIONS TOWARD IT.

4. CONVERSATION CLOSED BY NAIM AND MY AGREEING THAT BOTH OF US WANTED TO DO OUR UTMOST TO ESTABLISH COMPLETE CONFIDENCE BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. I TOLD NAIM THAT THERE WAS SOME CONCERN IN THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN KABUL ABOUT AFGHAN POLICY TOWARDS THE US AS A RESULT OF LESS COMMUNICATION WITH AFGHANS. I SAID THAT THIS GAVE RISE TO QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER AFGAHNISTAN COULD CONTINUE TO WANT THE KIND OF AID RELATIONSHIP THAT IT HAD HAD WITH US IN THE PAST. NAIM, WITH ABDULLAH CHIMING IN, RESPONDED THAT A SETTling-IN PERIOD FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN NECESSARY BUT THAT, AGAIN, THE DAOUD REGIME WISHES THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH THE US.

5. COMMENT: DAOUD AND NAIM HAD CLEARLY BEEN SAVING THIS TIDBIT FOR MY ARRIVAL. I THINK I MADE A GOOD FIRST DENT IN THE DIRECTION OF DISPELLING THEIR SUSPICIONS, BUT WE WILL KNOW MORE AFTER I HAVE SEEN OR HEARD THE "EVIDENCE." I HAVE CLASSIFIED THIS TELEGRAM EXDIS BECAUSE THE AFGHANS ARE TRYING TO KEEP THESE CHARGES SECRET, AND IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE FOR OUR RELATIONS IF THIS EPISODE WERE TO BECOME PUBLICLY KNOWN.
ELIOT

CONFIDENTIAL

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